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UNCLAS AMMAN 003594

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

DEPARTMENT FOR CA/OCS/ACS/NESA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ASEC](#) [PTER](#) [JO](#) [CASC](#) [KHOURY](#) [ADEL](#)

SUBJECT: PRISON VISIT, ADEL KHOURY

REF: 04 AMMAN 10120 AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) ACSOFF and ACSFSN visited Adel Khoury for 45 minutes on 4 April 2005 at Suwaga prison south of Amman. Mr. Khoury was, as always, pleased by the visit.

2. (U) MR. KHOURY SAID THAT ACCORDING TO HIS DOCTOR, HIS CANCER IS CURED; HE CONTINUES ROUTINE TESTING TO CONFIRM THIS DIAGNOSIS. MR. KHOURY SHOWED ACSOFF AN X-RAY REPORT DATED FEB. 20, 2005, STATING THAT HE HAS A HERNIATED DISC IN HIS BACK. MR. KHOURY ALSO STILL SUFFERS FROM HIS HERNIA. HE STATED THAT HIS DOCTOR TOLD HIM THAT THEY CANNOT OPERATE ON HIM UNTIL THEY ARE CERTAIN THAT HIS CANCER IS IN REMISSION. HE SAID THAT HE TAKES IRON AND MULTIVITAMIN SUPPLEMENT PILLS THAT HE RECEIVES FROM THE UNITED STATES. OTHERWISE, MR. KHOURY APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION.

3. (SBU) MR. KHOURY SPOKE AT LENGTH ABOUT A PRISON GANG CALLED "THE SHEIKHS," SO NAMED BECAUSE OF THEIR PROFESSIONS OF FAITH TO ISLAM. HE BELIEVES THAT THE GANG IS CONNECTED TO AL QAEDA AND OSAMA BIN LADEN. HE STATED THAT THE GANG MEMBERS HAVE CELLULAR PHONES AND COULD BE MAKING CONTACT WITH PEOPLE IN AFGHANISTAN. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE GANG POSSESSED WEAPONS, DRUGS, AND CHEMICALS. HE SAID THAT SINCE THE GANG WAS ISOLATED FROM THE REST OF PRISON INMATES ABOUT ONE MONTH AGO, ONE OF THE INMATES IN HIS CELL WHO ACTS AS A MESSENGER TO "THE SHEIKHS" HAS THREATENED TO CUT OFF MR. KHOURY'S HEAD WITH A SWORD BECAUSE HE IS CHRISTIAN. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE PREVIOUS PRISON DIRECTORS AND THE WHOLE CADRE OF OFFICERS AND GUARDS HAVE RECENTLY CHANGED BECAUSE OF INVOLVEMENT WITH THE GANG. [COMMENT: ACSOFF ALSO MET WITH THE NEW PRISON DIRECTOR, WHO CONFIRMED THAT AN ISLAMIST GANG HAD RECENTLY BEEN ISOLATED FOR POSSESSION OF CONTRABAND AND FOR ATTEMPTING TO CONTROL THE OTHER INMATES AND BEATING THEM FOR "UN-ISLAMIC" ACTS, INCLUDING CURSING. END COMMENT.]

4. (U) MR. KHOURY DISCUSSED HIS LIFE IN PRISON SINCE 1997. HE ALLEGED CORRUPTION ON THE PART OF THE PRISON OFFICIALS AND GUARDS, BUT WITHOUT GREAT DETAIL. HE ALSO EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE TO BE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER PRISON (BALQA-SALT PRISON) WHERE HE BELIEVES HE WOULD FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE AND BE CLOSER TO THE HOSPITAL. HE STATED THAT HE HAD SUBMITTED WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR THE TRANSFER AND EACH REQUEST WAS DENIED.

5. (U) POST WILL VISIT MR. KHOURY AGAIN IN THREE MONTHS.

HALE